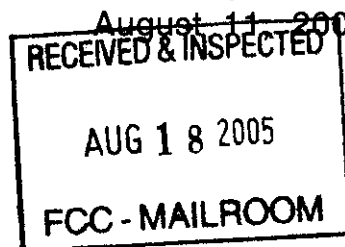


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722 Hart Drive  
Bridgewater, New Jersey, 08807

August 11, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC, 20554



Re: Docket 05-235 (Elimination of the Morse code competency requirement)

Dear Commissioner:

Will the elimination of the 5 word per minute Morse code proficiency requirement promote more effective amateur radio communications? Probably not. Afterall, Morse CW, although ancient and slow, remains the most cost effective mode for communication using the least amount of power and technical sophistication.

Will more Americans become hams? There is no data to indicate that young people will adopt the hobby even if there is no Morse requirement. I have seen data which suggests that young people have been driven away by electronics theory, not Morse.

Will hostile bickering in the hobby end? This is likewise doubtful. The hobby has become so polarized that many amateurs vow to drop out altogether if they don't get their way. Decades old resentment still lingers from the adoption of "incentive licensing," a plan many believe ended the golden age of ham radio.

Is it not unfortunate that the FCC has been drawn into a situation where it is seemingly destined to make one group of hams gloating winners and the other saddened losers? The Commissioners will be unpopular either way. I don't think this is necessary.

An amicable basis for resolving the issue was set down by the FCC long ago when it advocated the simplification of the service into three license classes. May I suggest that the Commission reconsider that structure within the following use based licensing scheme:

**Phone Class license---** Holders would use the current voice bands, even the HF ones. Newcomers would be tested in all manner of typical voice transmission, reception, antennas, and radio law. License candidates will demonstrate a minimal facility (250 words) in one of the world's great languages besides English. Current Generals and technicians could transit

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into this license.

Morse Class license-- Holders would use all current CW bands. Newcomers would be tested in Morse code at 10 wpm, technical knowledge of CW radio theory, receivers, antennas, and radio law. License candidates will build a simple radio receiver, transmitter, or transceiver from scratch or in kit form under a mentor's guidance. Current Generals, and technicians with code could transit into this license.

Extra Class license--Candidates must first have been licensed in one or both of the other classes for a period of one year. They could use all bands in which they are proficient but may also experiment, and communicate in exotic or cutting edge technology on band segments specifically allocated for that purpose by the Commission. Technical testing would be similar to the current Extra Class requirements and involve advanced communications modes, theory, propagation science, complex antennas, and nuances of radio law. Holders of current advanced or extra class licenses would likely transit into this license.

Newcomers to ham radio, ie. those without a license, would be permitted to operate Phone or Morse under the close presence, direction, and mentoring of a licensed radio operator with at least 3 years experience or within a licensed club while using the mentor's or club's call letters. After 6 months the candidate would be permitted to test for a phone or Morse license of his own.

In this plan everyone gets what they want. Technicians and code challenged persons gain access to HF phone bands, Morse users gain all CW frequencies, newcomers may enter the hobby through either phone or Morse, sophisticated hams get privileged use of exotic mode frequencies. At last the FCC brings stability and happiness back to ham radio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Albert J. Ernst'.

Albert J. Ernst  
K2PJT

908-526-6763

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